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Letter dated 2 December 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Morocco to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter, dated 2 December 1993, containing the statement made by His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe which assembled in Rome: the statement was read out by the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could arrange for the text of the present letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 77, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI

ANNEX

Statement of His Majesty the King of Morocco to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe

It is a great pleasure for us to address the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, united for their fourth session.

We welcome, for more than one reason, the decision of your distinguished body to include Morocco, to a greater extent, in its different activities and, in particular, at the ministerial conference.

Morocco, which is actually very close to Europe, has a permanent interest in that continent and is greatly concerned about the changes occurring there. Moreover, it maintains strong and diversified ties with the majority of the European countries, of which the Mediterranean is the main carrier.

Modern Morocco is the result of an intermixing, peaceful or hostile contacts, and political, cultural and intellectual contributions, primarily from the different points of the Mediterranean which have shaped its landscape and fashioned its philosophy.

Nature has also intended for Morocco, together with Spain, to be the guardian of the Strait of Gibraltar, the key to the Mediterranean. A strategic spot of the utmost importance, the Strait has also been the starting point of the discovery and the contact between different continents. The influence of the mare nostrum, cherished by the Latins, and the legacy it has left us over time have been the eternal concern of countless intersected civilizations.

However, the Strait of Gibraltar is also synonymous with responsibility as regards security, particularly in the Western Mediterranean. Despite its position at the extreme western tip of the Mediterranean, Morocco continues to be concerned about the entire region, which it views as indivisible. It is from this point of view that we have always maintained a particular and continued interest in the eastern part of the region, a troubled area if ever there was one.

Since the end of the Second World War the international community has witnessed, at times powerless, acute tensions, direct conflicts and upheavals which are a source of instability in the region and a matter of concern throughout the world.

This is why we have continually advocated dialogue and settlement of conflicts by peaceful means, in all circumstances and regardless of whom we are addressing. Thus, armed with this philosophy, Morocco supports the peace process under way in the Middle East and continues to give it the priority it deserves.

We also nourish the hope that with the efforts and support of all involved, we will reach a comprehensive and fair solution for all of the countries of the region.

The Mediterranean could then once again become a traditional place of interchange, interpenetrations and movements of all kinds which have made it so rich.

Yet, it would be an illusion to believe that peace in the Middle East and in the Balkans would alone make it possible to reach that goal. Parallel efforts must also be devoted to addressing the increasing and ponderous disparities that exist throughout the Mediterranean.

The profound disproportions between the two coasts, the cultural gaps which have led to today's mutual incomprehension, the contrasts of all types have assuredly engendered a range of problems, all of which, however, are elements of instability. These problems must be corrected immediately, not as they relate to the current situation, but at their very origin, namely the unequal development in the Mediterranean region.

We must bear in mind that today more than ever before, the established interdependence of interests and economies calls for a continual and renewed search for new avenues of dialogue and cooperation. Then we will be able to give full meaning to the expression: Mediterranean, Lake of Peace.

Our hopes for peace, security, harmony, development and understanding are not overambitious, but they do require true collective awareness and the development of far-reaching joint action.

Therefore, the Kingdom of Morocco invites all countries bordering the Mediterranean and all others, which for one reason or another take interest in the future of this sensitive region, to meet on its soil so as to reflect together on these various issues and crucial problems that we face.

It would be an honour for Morocco to host such a conference at the ministerial level. The specific objectives and formats of such a conference could be determined through appropriate consultations.

In anticipation of this meeting, that we hope will occur in the near future, we wish you the greatest success in your work.